

practice is likely to bring him in contact with the diseases which are described, but also to superintendents, officers, and managers of almshouses, asylums, children's homes, and similar institutions, in which it is essential to endeavor to prevent the entrance of epidemic conjunctivitis, and in which, if the disease has already found a footing, all measures to stamp it out of existence should be employed. G. E. DE S.

GESCHICHTE DER VOLKSEUCHEN WACH UND MIT DEN BERICHTEN DER ZEITGENOSSEN, MIT BERÜCKSICHTIGUNG DER THIERSEUCHEN. Von Dr. B. M. LERSCH. Pp. 445. Berlin: S. Karger, 1896.

THIS is an extremely valuable reference-book, the preparation of which must have involved an enormous amount of reading and research. It presents a history of epidemic diseases from the earliest to the present time, giving the dates and main facts of outbreaks of these diseases wherever occurring. Many of the most important and widespread epidemics are described in great detail, with full accounts of symptoms, treatment, meteorological conditions, and other matters of interest. The insertion of full references to authorities would have added greatly to the value of the book for other workers in the field of epidemiology. In a very great number of instances, for example, no authority whatever is given and this omission is inexcusable. C. H.

DEAF-MUTISM. A CLINICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL STUDY. By JAMES KERR LOVE, M.D., Aural Surgeon to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary; Honorary Aurist to the Glasgow Deaf and Dumb Institution. With Chapters on the EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF DEAF MUTES, by W. H. ADDISON, A.C.P., Principal of the Glasgow Deaf and Dumb Institution. Pp. 369. Glasgow: James MacLehose & Sons, Publishers to the University, 1896. New York: Macmillan & Co.

CHAPTERS I. to VIII. are the work of Dr. Love, and are the only ones that appeal to the medical man. The work as a whole is emphatically one to be studied by teachers of the deaf and dumb. The name of the book should be Deaf-dumbness, and not "Deaf-mutism." The latter is a translation of the French "Surdmutité," and we could never understand why English writers preferred it to honest English "deaf-dumbness." The Germans command our respect with their word "Taubstummheit." Why do not our English writers show similar regard for their own language and use pure English when they can?

The chapter on Diagnosis, Prognosis, and Treatment of "Deaf-mutism," or the "surdism"—i. e., the deafness of the mute—is very inferior to what it might have been had the author shown any knowledge of what might be done to relieve the deafness of the mute. The latter can certainly be done in the acquired cases, especially in many instances of purulency. Not one suggestion is made that such aid may be given to a mute, just as it is in many cases of deafness in those not mutes, by intratympanic operations. And it must be remembered that any improvement in hearing enables the deaf-mute to acquire more easily lip-reading and articulation. The author of this chapter either knows nothing about

such operations or suppresses what he knows. He contents himself with treatment of the nasopharynx. His indifference to any rational treatment of the ear in the deaf-mute may be due to his view (p. 181) that the deafness in the mute "is generally due to damage to the internal ear, the auditory nerve, or its connections in the brain"—a statement, however, which cannot be substantiated, at least in the acquired cases with purulency.

The book is well written and handsomely printed and bound.

C. H. B.

LES SUPPURATIONS DE L'APOPHYSE MASTOÏDE, ET LEUR TRAITEMENT. Par A. BROCA and F. LUBET-BARBON. Pp. 259. Paris : G. Steinheil, 1895.

THIS work, which shows care and industry in observation and recording cases of mastoid disease, is divided into an introduction and four chapters. The latter are denominated Mastoid Abscesses, Mastoid Fistulæ, Chronic Suppurative Otitides, with Latent Mastoiditis, and a chapter on Results.

The first chapter is subdivided into (1) Sketch of the Pathological Anatomy and Physiology, (2) Symptoms, (3) Diagnosis, (4) Therapeutic Indications, and (5) Treatment of Acute Mastoiditis.

The second chapter is subdivided into (1) Physical Signs and Osseous Lesions, (2) Therapeutic Indications and Surgical Operations, and (3) Intracranial Complications.

The third chapter is not subdivided, but the fourth chapter is divided into (1) Cases, (2) General Statistics, and (3) Results According to the Nature of the Lesion.

The authors make the term mastoiditis, or mastoid abscess, very comprehensive, placing under it many comparatively trifling affections of the soft parts of the mastoid and intramastoid processes which have terminated safely and spontaneously beneath the soft tissues of the mastoid cortex. It also seems from a scrutiny of the notes of cases that in many instances the so-called mastoid abscess or fistula was the result of an irritant and secondarily infectious treatment of the inflamed ear. Viewed in the light of the recent papers upon antiseptic treatment of ear disease by Gradenigo and Pes, in Italy, and Lermoyez and Helme,¹ in France, this work under review belongs to the period of what may be termed "septic aural surgery."

C. H. B.

SPECTACLES AND EYEGLASSES: THEIR FORMS, MOUNTING, AND PROPER ADJUSTMENT. By R. J. PHILLIPS, M.D., Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Presbyterian Hospital in Philadelphia, etc. Second edition, revised, with forty-nine illustrations. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son & Co., 1895.

THIS excellent manual, which has reached its second edition, continues to be the best book on the subject of which it treats. It should be read by everyone who is interested in that most important portion of the ophthalmic surgeon's work—the supervision of the proper adjustment of spectacles. It is doubly useful for those practitioners of ophthalmology who are unable to command the services of a skilled optician.

G. DE S.

¹ See this JOURNAL, July, 1895, pp. 101, 105.